

IOWA UCR PROGRAM UPDATE

ICRIME Development

The state's vendor, Optimum Technology, is finalizing the development of ICRIME. They made several updates to both the test and production environments in late August. The remaining changes impact the Report Center and a companion site, a public portal that, once complete, users will access from the Iowa Department of Public Safety website.

The Iowa UCR program and Optimum Technology are working together to complete FBI re-certification. The FBI requires re-certification whenever a state program enhances its existing system or changes its submission method. The Iowa UCR program has done both, as it has developed a new state crime database and will submit data to the FBI via extensible markup language (XML). The FBI may request that agencies address errors and warnings identified through the re-certification process. When this occurs, the Iowa UCR program will communicate directly with agencies. Only after the Iowa UCR program re-certifies may it submit data to the FBI for publication.

Agency Certification Process

All agencies are required to certify within ICRIME. An agency achieves certification when it obtains an error rate of less than four percent over three consecutive months. The [Iowa UCR Program Policy Manual](#) provides additional information on the certification process. For all agencies, the process starts with a completed [Letter of Interest for UCR Program Participation](#).

Agencies should certify no later than **September 30, 2021**. If records management system (RMS) vendor delays are likely to prevent timely certification, please reach out to the Iowa UCR program.

Valid Data Values

The [Iowa UCR Program User Manual](#) includes detailed information on the data values accepted for crime reporting, while the [Iowa UCR Technical Specification - File Layout](#) provides a concise view of these values.

The Iowa UCR program uses several tables to standardize values for crime reporting. The [state charge code table](#) lists the specific values used in statute fields, while [Appendix A. Iowa Cities Table](#) and [Appendix B. Iowa Zip Codes Table](#) provide the cities and zip codes used.

Agencies must report values precisely as they appear in the documentation - entries cannot be abbreviated or modified. Submissions that include values not identified in program documentation will generate errors.

Reporting Offenses

Agencies report [Group A offenses](#) (i.e., all Crimes Against Persons, Crimes Against Property, and Crimes Against Society) whenever they become known to law enforcement. To accurately calculate crime rates, these are submitted regardless of whether an arrest occurs. When applicable, agencies report arrests or, in limited instances, exceptional clearances to clear Group A offenses.

Agencies report Group B offenses when they make an arrest or issue a summons/citation. When Group A and Group B offenses occur in the same incident, agencies report only Group A offenses.

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Default Values

When entering crime data in an RMS or the ICRIME Data Center forms, agencies should be mindful of default values. While these automatically populate to simplify data entry, agencies should verify these values are accurate for each incident/arrest. Examples of common default values include 00=Midnight for Incident Date, C=Completed for Offense Attempted/Completed, 88=None (no bias) for Bias Motivation, and N=No for Offender Present When Officers Arrived. Other default values may exist, as these vary by system.

Burglary Offenses

The FBI defines 220=Burglary/Breaking & Entering offenses as, "The unlawful entry into a building or other structure with the intent to commit a felony or theft." These offenses have an element of trespass and often involve larceny (i.e., the physical taking of property). As a result, agencies should not report larceny as a separate offense if it is associated with the unlawful entry of a structure. Instead, the stolen property is considered the proceeds of the 220=Burglary/Breaking & Entering - agencies should report it in the property segment for the offense.

A structure has four walls, a roof, and a door. Homes, garages, apartment buildings, offices, government buildings, churches, barns, etc., are structures and, when burglarized (with or without force), agencies report 220=Burglary/Breaking & Entering. Vehicles are not structures. When offenders burglarize vehicles under Iowa Code § 713.6A(2), agencies should report 23F=Theft From Motor Vehicle and/or 23G=Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts or Accessories and not 220=Burglary/Breaking & Entering. When trailers, which are considered transportation devices by the FBI, are broken into, agencies should typically report 23H=All Other Larceny.

Subaward Recipients

Through the UCR Technical Specification Subawards, the Iowa UCR program offered financial assistance to law enforcement agencies. Following a competitive application process, 57 agencies received subawards to offset the cost of software updates. The Iowa UCR program has obligated approximately \$105,000 to these agencies.

As the awards are made available through a federal National Crime Statistics Exchange (NCS-X) grant, agencies must satisfy all conditions by September 30, 2021, the grant end date. To be reimbursed for software updates, subaward recipients must implement changes within their RMS, achieve certification, and provide required documentation (i.e., an invoice to the Iowa DPS and proof of payment).

Agencies that believe they've met the certification criteria should notify the Iowa UCR program, which will expedite the certification process.

As always, please contact me with any questions or concerns. I can be reached at loynacha@dps.state.ia.us or (515) 725-6251.

